application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the January 28 personal interview with Examiner Hayes. The points discussed during the interview are reemphasized in this Amendment.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Claims 1, 5-7 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dillon (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,065) in view of Civanlar (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,935); claims 4, 8 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dillon and Civanlar, and further in view of Downs (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618B1); and claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dillon and Civanlar, and further in view of Stefik (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, neither Dillon, Civanlar, Downs nor Stefik, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest a contents distribution method including encrypting and distributing contents along with summary information showing a summary of the contents to the plural users, displaying summary information only if decoding information accompanying encrypted contents can be utilized by a user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 7.

Dillon discloses an electronic document delivery system and method in which a broadcast center periodically sends a "catalog" of available documents to a receiving computer, thereby allowing a user to browse through the available documents without having to access the broadcast center. The documents are transmitted as packets, and the packets are decrypted as soon as they are received, eliminating the need to store both an encrypted and a

decrypted version of the documents at the receiving computer. See, for example, abstract of Dillon.

On the contrary, Dillon fails to disclose or suggest <u>displaying summary information only if the decoding information accompanying encrypted contents can be utilized by a user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user</u>, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 7.

Civanlar fails to compensate for any deficiencies of Dillon. Civanlar instead discloses that if software is purchased from a store, then the purchasers contacts the seller of the software. The purchaser then provides information to the seller necessary to design a key. The seller then forwards additional software, along with the key, either via a floppy disk or electronically, to the purchaser. Additionally, the seller can forward just a key to the purchaser, or if the software is purchased electronically, the key is forwarded along with the purchased software. See, for example, col. 2, lines 35-45.

Down discloses a content distribution and licensing control system where upon receipt of the transaction secure container, the end user player application running on the end user device solicits license authorization from the clearing house by means of an order secure container. If the verifications are successful, the clearing house decrypts the symmetric key and the transaction data and bills and transfers the license secure container to the end user device. The license secure container carries the symmetric key and the transaction data, both encrypted, using the public key of the end user device. After receiving the license secure container, the end user device decrypts the symmetric key and the transaction data previously received from the clearing house and requests the content secure container from the content hosting site. Upon arrival of the content secure container, the end user device encrypts the content using the symmetric key.

Stefik discloses a fee accounting mechanism for accounting fees associated with the distribution and use of digital works. Repositories control access to the digital works. Upon determination that the exercise of a usage right requires a fee, the repository generates a fee reporting transaction. Fee reporting is done to a credit server. The credit server collects the fee information and periodically transmits it to the billing clearing house. See, for example, abstract of Stefik.
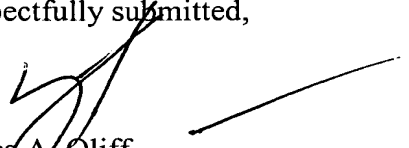
However, neither Civanlar, Downs nor Stefik disclose or suggest <u>displaying summary information only if the coding information accompanying encrypted contents can be utilized by a user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user</u>. Because the applied references fail to disclose this feature, any combination of the references would not result in filtering distributed contents. Thus, it would not have been obvious to combine the references to arrive at the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 7 define patentable subject matter. Claims 4-5, 8, 11-15 depend from the independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-8, and 11-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No. 27,075

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JAO:YSC/sdb

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: February 4, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1.   (~~Twice~~ Three Times Amended) A contents distribution method for distributing digitized contents to plural users, comprising the steps of:

      encrypting and distributing contents <u>along with summary information showing a summary of the contents</u> to the plural users;

      <u>providing decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users</u>

      <u>displaying summary information only if decoding information accompanying encrypted contents can be utilized by the user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user;</u>

      selecting by ~~a~~ <u>the</u> user at least one of the encrypted content from the distributed contents <u>that can be utilized by the user;</u>

      decoding the encrypted content using decoding information accompanying the encrypted content~~, the decoding information is based on a user information of the user~~ and utilizing thereof by the user; and

      executing accounting to the user according to said utilized content.

7.   (~~Twice~~ Three Times Amended) A contents distribution system that distributes digitized contents to plural users, comprising:

      a distribution device that distributes encrypted contents <u>along with summary information showing a summary of the contents, the distribution device further provides decoding information accompanying encrypted contents, each decoding information specific to a user in the plural users;</u>

a user terminal that receives encrypted contents distributed by said distribution device, displays summary information only if decoding information accompanying encrypted contents can be utilized by the user wherein the decoding information determines which encrypted contents among the distributed contents can be utilized by the user. the user selects at least one encrypted content from the distributed encrypted contents that can be utilized by the user, decodes the encrypted content using decoding information accompanying the encrypted content, the decoding information is based on a user information of the user and generates accounting information according to the utilization of said selected encrypted content; and

a central station that collects and totalizes accounting information generated by said user terminal.